

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 4 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please add new claims 10-13.

Claims 1-3 (original)

Claims 4 (canceled)

Claims 5-9 (original)

Claim 10 (new): The polymer composite according to claim 1, wherein said keratin is present in an amount from about 0.1 weight percent to about 99.9 weight percent.

Claim 11 (new): The polymer composite according to claim 6, wherein said polymer composite is made at a temperature below the degradation temperature of said keratin or said polymer composite is made in a solvent in which said polymer is soluble and said keratin is insoluble.

Claim 12 (new): The polymer composite according to claim 11 wherein said polymer composite is made at a temperature below about 200°C.

Claim 13 (new): The polymer composite according to claim 6, wherein said keratin has a molecular weight of about 10,700 g/mol.